2. Innovate/design new products and upgrade product quality to ensure that the consumers are not diverted towards imported products.
3. Adopt international/Indian product standards.
4. Ensure better packaging for domestic and export markets.
5. Ensure compliance with pre-determined delivery schedules.
6. Obtain patents for their products.
7. Expand the industrial units vertically by installing modern machinery rather than starting another small unit.
8. Explore areas for ancillarisation and develop linkages with other enterprises.
9. Restructure management and marketing practices.
10. Look for collaborations and tie-ups with foreign firms, which will take care of export marketing through their established channels and provide financial support.
11. Improve productivity of labour.

Increase in units under SSI sector

†3938. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether its is a fact that the number of industrial units under the Small Scale Sector has increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of these units at the end of March, 1998 and March, 2001;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of sick units has also increased in the Small Scale Sector during the said period; and

---

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what was the number of such units at the end of March, 2001 and the amount of capital invested therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The number of industriral units in the Small Scale Sector in the country is estimated to have increased from 29.44 lakhs at the end of March, 1998 to 3310 lakhs at the end of March, 2001.

(c) and (d) As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which compiled data on sick SSI units financed by scheduled commercial banks, the number of sick SSI units at the end of March, 1998 was 2,21,536 which increased to 3,06,221 at the end of March, 1999. However, the same has decreased to 3,04,235 at the end of March, 2000 and further to 2,49,630 at the end of March, 2001. Data on capital investment in sick units is not maintained centrally. As per RBI, the bank's amount outstanding in these sick units was 4505.54 crores at the end of March, 2001.

Revival of SSI in Jharkhand and Bihar

3939. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries closed down in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for their closure; and

(c) the efforts made and the steps taken by Government to revive these units before their closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick units financed by scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, there were 26293, 26909 and 16423 sick units by the end of March, 1999, March 2000 and March 2001 respectively in the erstwhile Bihar State, which includes the newly formed Jharkhand State.